

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. to 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure comprising:

providing a honeycomb structure having a circumferential wall, numerous partition walls disposed inside the circumferential wall, and numerous cell passages defined by the partition walls; and

wherein a coating the circumferential wall portion of the honeycomb structure is coated wholly or in a part within a certain distance from an extremity surface of the honeycomb structure with a an organic high molecular weight organic reinforcing material in a narrow band only,

wherein the organic reinforcing material dissipates at a high temperature, thereby protecting the edge portions of the honeycomb structure from damage before the structure is subjected to a baking treatment.

7. (Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure, comprising:

providing a honeycomb structure having a circumferential wall, numerous partition walls located inside the circumferential wall, and numerous cell passages defined by the partition walls;
~~said method comprising steps of~~

impregnating and/or and coating a circumferential portion of the honeycomb structure with ~~an~~ a high molecular weight organic reinforcing material wholly or in part within a certain distance from an extremity surface of the honeycomb structure in a narrow band only; and

curing the high molecular weight organic ~~high molecular~~ material,

wherein the organic reinforcing material dissipates at a high temperature, thereby protecting the edge portions of the honeycomb structure from damage before the structure is subjected to a baking treatment.

8. (Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein ~~an~~ ~~organic~~ a high molecular weight organic material is filled in cell passages at a vicinity of a circumferential portion including a foremost outer circumferential portion of the honeycomb structure to coat an inner ~~surfaces~~ surface of said cell passages; or ~~an~~ ~~organic~~ a high molecular weight organic material is filled into the cell passages, and then the material is cured.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure according to claim 6, wherein said ~~organic~~ high molecular weight organic reinforcing material is a photo-curing photo-reactive material.

R. 1.53(b) Continuation
of S. N. 09/953,954

12. (Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure according to claim 7, wherein said ~~organic~~ high molecular weight organic reinforcing material is a photo-curing photo-reactive material.

13. (Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure according to claim 8, wherein said ~~organic~~ high molecular weight organic reinforcing material is a photo-curing photo-reactive material.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure according to claim 6, wherein at least the circumferential portion ~~of the extremity~~ surface of the honeycomb structure is reinforced with ~~an organic~~ a high molecular weight organic material after injection molding, or after drying before firing but after injection-molding.

17. (Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure according to claim 7, wherein at least the circumferential portion ~~of the extremity~~ surface of the honeycomb structure is reinforced with ~~an organic~~ a high molecular weight organic material after injection molding, or after drying before firing but after injection-molding.

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18. (Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure according to claim 8, wherein at least the circumferential portion ~~on the extremity surface~~ of the honeycomb structure is reinforced with ~~an organic~~ a high molecular weight organic material after injection molding, or after drying before firing but after injection-molding.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure according to claim 11, wherein at least the circumferential portion of the extremity surface of the honeycomb structure is reinforced with ~~an organic~~ a high molecular weight organic material after injection molding, or after drying before firing but after injection-molding.

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22. (New) A method for reinforcing a thin-walled honeycomb structure according to claim 6, wherein the reinforcing material is selected from the group consisting of thermal setting resins, elastic resins, ultra-violet curing resins, rubber materials and pressure sensitive adhesives.